



THE RESPONDER

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE • JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER
OIL SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM • DECEMBER 2012



Spill Impacts Houston Ship Channel

At approximately 9:55 p.m. on October 12, the La Porte field office of the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program received a report from Chemtel regarding a bunker oil spill from a cargo vessel at Jacinto Port in Houston. The spill of approximately 100 gallons of heavy fuel oil was the result of poor communication between the vessel and a bunker barge.

Senior Response Officer Craig Kartye and Response Officer Candidate Jesse Mayorga responded to the incident. The U.S. Coast Guard, the responsible party, Phoenix Pollution Control & Environmental Services, Inc., O'Brien's Response Management, Lamorte Burns & Co., and the Port of Houston also responded to the incident.

The spill impacted a portion of the Houston Ship Channel and contaminated the hull of the cargo vessel, the port side of the barge and Jacinto Port Dock #2. The spill was contained by boom, and



Bunker oil spill from a cargo vessel at Jacinto Port in Houston.

pom-poms and sorbent boom were deployed to collect free floating oil over a three-day period.

South Texas Coastal Zone Hosts Teach the Teacher Event

On July 25, eight Texas General Land Office Oil Spill staffers from the South Texas Coastal Zone held the Teach the Teacher outreach event at the Region 4 Brownsville office for the 12th consecutive year. The event kicked off at 8 a.m. at the Brownsville field office, where participants heard a presentation on the duties of the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Division, including an overview of the various types of oil spill response equipment staged at the Region 4 warehouse. Afterward, participants met with Oil Spill staffers and boarded multiple Land Office workboats and air boats for a tour of the Lower Laguna Madre, Brownsville Ship Channel and Southbay Coastal Preserve.

About 25 science students working on master's degrees and doctorates attended, along with a couple of professors. "The STZC



Raymond Oliveira, Area Manager, and participants heading out in the air boat.

staff looks forward to it," said Raymond Oliveira, Area Manager of Region IV Brownsville. "It's a good way to give back to the teachers because we all know the amount of time they put

into educating our youth."

While the Lower Laguna Madre and Brownsville Ship Channel are of interest to students and teachers, the remote areas of Southbay are always the highlight. The coastal preserve—located in the Lower Laguna Madre—is a sensitive habitat, teeming with fish, birds, vegetation and numerous types of sea grass. Southbay's waters are very shallow and surrounded by black mangroves and oyster reefs which shelter many species. Land Office marine biologists from the Corpus Christi office went along on the tour to share their knowledge of the sensitive habitat.

"In Southbay, the amount of fish and birds you see in the shallows is incredible," Oliveira said. "We take air boats to the south end of the Coastal Preserve and beach them in. We then give presentations on the Southbay oil spill response plan and the numerous types of fauna and flora that inhabit the area."

In stark contrast to the pristine coastal preserve, the teachers and students also toured the Brownsville Ship Channel, Port Isabel Harbor and Laguna Madre, where they got to see various vessels, oil-handling facilities and the bilge reclamation system, all of which are inspected annually by the Region 4 office.

CITGO Terminal Manager Charles Milstead was also on hand to assist with the event and discussed how industry, state and federal agencies work together to prevent oil spills in coastal waters.

Oliveira said the tours make a strong impression on teachers, as well as students who often go on to become teachers. "I see it continuing for many years to come; the students, teachers and professors have always given the event high marks," he said. "Thanks to all involved for making it a continued success."

EDUCATE ♦ PREVENT ♦ RESPOND

Wayward Vessels Impact Gulf Beaches

In August, a man took his family out for the maiden voyage of a recently purchased boat, a 20-foot long vessel. The owner took the boat through the Packery Channel Jetties on North Padre Island toward one of the offshore platforms east of Bob Hall Pier. The boat experienced engine trouble and lost power. Waves came over the side and it started to sink, but the family was rescued by a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter.

The following day, the boat drifted ashore several miles north of the Packery Channel Jetties. The Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program received the report and Response Officer Daniel Davis met with the owner to devise a removal plan. (Since 2005, it's a violation of state law to abandon vessels in state coastal waters). While the owner was calling salvage companies, two members of the Flour Bluff Volunteer Fire Department (FBVFD) drove by the beached vessel and offered to pull it out of the water with their 5-ton response truck.

When the truck arrived with more FBVFD members, ropes were tied to the boat and the truck began to pull the vessel. The boat was upside down and needed to be flipped over. After breaking all of the boat's cleats and attachment points, ropes were lashed around the transom and the boat was finally flipped over. It was then pulled close to the beach and winched onto a trailer as another truck pushed against its transom to move it the final few feet.

Later that month, the recreational fishing vessel *Barracuda* was headed for the Port Aransas jetties when power to its engine and

electronics was lost. The vessel wound up on the rocks outside the jetty entrance and discharged 80 gallons of diesel.

A U.S. Coast Guard

rescue team responded and assisted with minor injuries to the vessel's crew. Senior Response Officer Fred Valadez and Response Officer Candidate Daniel Escobar also responded and worked with the owner to ensure the boat was removed from coastal waters.

In September, Response Officer Al Oswalt responded to a report of a sunken vessel in the Padre Isles Canal area. Upon arrival, Oswalt found the 28-foot long R/V *Stock Picker* had sunk in its slip up to the gunwales. A small sheen emanated from the vessel.

The owner was told the vessel had to be stabilized immediately, but he was unable to raise it after several days. Five days later, the owner told Oswalt he had transferred ownership to another person. The new owner raised the vessel the following day and tried to tow it to Cove Harbor Marina for repairs.

During this transit, the *Stock Picker* began to take on water as soon as it was towed into the gulf. Believing both the *Stock Picker* and tow vessel would sink, the owner cut the former loose. It grounded on the public beach about one-half mile south of Bob Hall Pier.

Oswalt contacted the new owner, and after citing the statute that prohibits abandoning vessels or structures in state waters, gave the owner 24 hours to develop a salvage plan. Oswalt determined

that the vessel would be damaged by wave action within hours and begin to disintegrate in the surf.

With the help of Joe James of the Land Office's Legal Services, a vessel removal contract was awarded to Captain Jason Wendt with SeaTow, Inc., of Corpus Christi. SeaTow tried various means, from pumping water out of the vessel to towing it onto the beach, all without success. The following day, SeaTow secured a crane and lifted the vessel onto a trailer. However, the tow trailer could not support the vessel, which weighed almost 20,000 lb. from accumulating sand for 24 hours.

The vessel was finally removed from the beach with a flatbed trailer and currently awaits disposal.

If you are a coastal boat owner or operator, please note the following statutes: Texas Natural Resources Code, Chap. 40, §40.108. Derelict Vessels and Structures

(a) A person may not, without the consent of the commissioner, leave, abandon, or maintain any structure or vessel in or on coastal waters, on public or private lands or at a public or private port or dock if the structure or vessel is in a wrecked, derelict, or substantially dismantled condition and the commissioner finds the structure or vessel to be:

(1) involved in an actual or threatened unauthorized discharge of oil; (2) a threat to public health, safety, or welfare; (3) a threat to the environment; or (4) a navigation hazard.

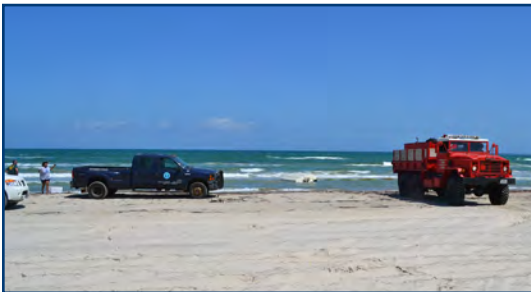
Under OSPRA §40.251(c), the owner of a vessel abandoned in Texas coastal waters may be assessed \$100-\$10,000 per day. If a vessel is formally declared abandoned, a Class A misdemeanor may be charged under OSPRA §40.251(a) and is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$4,000, a prison term not to exceed one year, or both a fine and imprisonment.

Failure to remove a vessel that's the source of an unauthorized discharge of a harmful quantity of oil into Texas coastal waters requires the Land Office to assess a penalty against the responsible person of \$250-\$25,000. A "harmful quantity" of oil is any amount of oil that causes

a sheen upon or discoloration of the surface of the water. For more information please contact the Regional Derelict Vessel Coordinator Jay Veselka at 361-825-3007 or at jay.veselka@glo.texas.gov.



The *Barracuda* being pulled off of the rocks.



FBVFD offers the use of a 5-ton response truck to pull a boat out of the water.

A U.S. Coast Guard

rescue team responded and assisted with minor injuries to the vessel's crew. Senior Response Officer Fred Valadez and Response Officer Candidate Daniel Escobar also responded and worked with the owner to ensure the boat was removed from coastal waters.

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The vessel *Stock Picker* was removed from the beach with a flatbed trailer.

GLO Partners with USFWS & NGOs to Enhance the Environment

A number of agencies and organizations partnered in the 5th Annual Colonial Waterbird Rookery Island Cleanup held in late October. Among the participants were the Texas General Land Office's Region 3 Oil Spill Prevention and Response Division, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Coastal Bend Audubon Society, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CB-BEP), the Padre Island Yacht Club and the City of Corpus Christi-Storm Water Department. The event was hosted by the USFWS, the CBBEP and Audubon Texas. About 75 volunteers showed up at the Padre Island Yacht Club to remove debris from Upper Laguna Madre colonial waterbird nesting islands.



GLO Response Officer Al Oswalt shuttles volunteers to cleanup sites.

Colonial waterbird populations are key environmental indicators of the Upper Laguna Madre's productivity. They represent the top of the food chain and reflect the system's overall health. Additionally, communities along the Texas coast enjoy economic benefits from the increasing popularity of birding ecotourism, especially that of colonial waterbirds. However, recent studies show a decline in certain colonial waterbird populations. Factors affecting breeding success include impacts from recreational activities, oil spills and human disturbance.



GLO Response Officer Brent Koza discards abandoned crab traps collected in the Upper Laguna Madre.

The Land Office uses in oil spill planning and response. The data includes habitat prioritization based on biological resources, Environmental Sensitivity Indices, stakeholder information, and human use features such as marinas, boat launch sites, and beach access locations that could be affected by an oil spill or could serve as staging areas during response operations.

This year's cleanup site included six high priority areas that are home to four endangered protected species and three high priority species as identified in the GLO Texas Oil Spill Planning and Response Atlas. The atlas contains maps and associated

Volunteers were taken to 35 different spoil islands by boats supplied by the USCG, Land Office, TPWD, the Coastal Bend Audubon Society and USFWS. The Padre Island Yacht Club provided the facilities for loading/unloading boat passengers, offloading trash and preparing and serving lunch to the volunteers.

Enough debris was collected from islands in the Upper Laguna Madre to fill a 12-yard dump truck supplied by the City of Corpus Christi-Storm Water Department. Among the debris were diapers, Styrofoam cups, cans, plastic bottles, fishing line and lures, tires, lawn chairs and more diapers.

The program continues to grow every year by virtue of the volunteers that show up to help. In addition to eliminating trash, the event educates citizens about responsible trash disposal, oil recycling and the relation of storm water runoff to the eventual fate of trash and oil in the bays. If you are interested in attending next year's cleanup event, please contact Robyn Cobb of the USFWS at 361-994-9005 or David Newstead of the CBBEP at 361-885-6203.

Marsh Restoration Effort

On September 29 the Texas General Land Office assisted the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program and the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation in a marsh restoration effort at a 160-acre site near the Nueces Bay Causeway between Corpus Christi and Portland. The site is being converted from open water to a complex designed to mimic natural marshes in surrounding areas. Intertidal marsh is a critical part of the bay ecosystem as an essential habitat for juvenile fish, shrimp and crabs and as feeding grounds for bigger fish and birds.

A goal of the marsh restoration project is to involve local citizens in hands-on wetlands restoration activities while increasing their awareness and appreciation of wetland habitats and functions. Approximately 10 volunteers were shuttled to and from the restoration site via a Land Office airboat to plant 2,000 sprigs of saltmarsh cordgrass.

For additional information about the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program contact Beth Becerra, Communications Manager, at 361-885-6246.



Volunteers plant cordgrass off of a newly constructed island.

Correction

In the NDOW Multi-Agency Hurricane Field Exercise article, which ran in the September 2012 edition, Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup (NDOW) was inaccurately referred to as the National Disaster Operations Workgroup. We apologize for this oversight.

GLO Announces 2011 OSPRA Award Winners

Each year, the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program presents an Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act "OSPRA" Award to individuals and organizations that help protect Texas coastal environments. During the past year, OSPRA award winners have gone beyond the required provisions of the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act of 1991, taking proactive steps to protect coastal resources. Each winner was nominated and chosen by a panel appointed by the Land Office, which has recognized excellence in environmental protection for the past 15 years through the award. Congratulations to the 2011 OSPRA Award Winners:

Enterprise Texas City Docks – Texas City, Texas

Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup,

Nicolas Brescia – (EPA, USCG, TCEQ, TPWD & GLO)

Kirby Inland Marine LP – Channelview, Texas

Anthony F. (Tony) Amos – Animal Rehabilitation Keep (ARK)

Enterprise Texas City Docks is one of only a few terminals accommodating the largest crude oil ships entering U.S. ports, and is focused on moving this commerce safely and se-

curely within the Port of Texas City. Enterprise has demonstrated a commitment to environmental leadership within the Port of Texas City and has been cited for exemplary compliance with no noted discrepancies during its annual Coast Guard inspection. Enterprise employees maintain a high level of spill response preparation by participating in area spill exercises and attending hazardous technician courses. Their participation in the Texas City Industrial Mutual Aid Society helps ensure an adequate response to industrial catastrophe by mobilizing responders from multiple companies.

The **Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup** (NDOW) identifies areas needing improvement and better coordination between state and federal agencies relative to Emergency Support Function 3 (Public Works and Engineering) and ESF-10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials Response) as a result of the Hurricane Ike Texas response. The workgroup includes personnel from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas General Land Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 and the U.S. Coast Guard District Eight Strike Team and District Response Advisory Team. EPA Region 6 Federal On-Scene Coordinator Nicolas Brescia led this effort from the beginning with support from contractor Weston Solutions, Inc. The EPA contributed the use of its "Response Manager" software for NDOW's data collection and management system.

Kirby Inland Marine operates the nation's largest fleet of inland tank barges and towing vessels with operations throughout the Texas and national inland waterways. Kirby has minimized spill incidents through its commitment to spill prevention. The company has a Spill Prevention Committee, conducts spill response drills throughout the United States, and has implemented practices and added equipment to prevent spills from reaching the land or water. In addition, Kirby personnel attend Coastal Area Zone Committee meetings and maintain working relationships with key vendors and regulatory and enforcement agencies.

Tony Amos, oceanographer and wildlife rehabilitator at the University of Texas - Marine Science Institute (UTMSI) in Port Aransas, has been involved in oil spill and marine debris research since the 1970s. In 1978, he did a survey of Mustang Island that monitored tar balls, bird populations, marine debris and beach/dune erosion. During the 1979 IXTOC I Oil Spill, which impacted gulf beaches, Amos documented oiling of the beach and compared it to pre-spill conditions. He continues to survey and monitor local gulf beaches and contributes to the Oil Spill Intelligence Report. His studies and knowledge of beach debris were instrumental in forming the Texas Adopt-A-Beach program. Oiled wildlife found by Amos inspired him to create the Animal Rehabilitation Keep (ARK) that includes the Oiled Wildlife Facility (OWF), built with the help of the Land Office. Amos and others maintain the OWF, which can treat sea turtles, marine birds and dolphins harmed by oil spills. ARK works closely with state and federal agencies during spill events that may impact wildlife.

Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Division Points of Contact

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512-475-1575

Port Arthur

2300 Highway 365, Ste. 340
Nederland, Texas
77627-6255
409-727-7481

La Porte

11811 North D Street
La Porte, Texas
77571-9135
281-470-6597

Corpus Christi

6300 Ocean Drive, Ste. 5847
Corpus Christi, Texas
78412-5847
361-825-3300

Brownsville

2145 EMS Lane
Brownsville, Texas
78521-2666
956-504-1417

Port Lavaca

414 Travis Street
Port Lavaca, Texas
77979-2351
361-552-8081

**Report oil spills
1-800-832-8224
24 hours**

The Responder is published by the Texas General Land Office. Questions and comments may be submitted to Angela Jarvis via email at angela.jarvis@glo.texas.gov or by phone at 281-470-6597.

2012 Toolkit Now Available

The 14th edition of the popular GLO Oil Spill Planning and Response Toolkit was rolled out at the Clean Gulf Conference in New Orleans on November 13th. Make sure to get your updated DVD or NEW Thumb drive toolkit!

Southeast Texas Benefits from Spill

In January 2010, the tanker *Eagle Otome* and the towing vessel *Dixie Vengeance* collided in Port Arthur's Sabine-Neches Waterway, resulting in roughly 462,000 gallons of spilled oil impacting, among other things, two public parks. As part of the penalty negotiations, two Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) were developed to help offset the final penalty and improve the facilities at both parks. The two SEPs were awarded to the Texas Historical Commission's Sabine Pass Battleground Park and Jefferson County Precinct 3's Walter Umphrey Park.

Sabine Pass Battleground Park improvements included dredging the boat launch and lagoon after silting from Hurricane Ike. This



New boat launch.

provides the public and oil spill responders with a much needed boat launch for both daily activities and spill response. Other improvements included restoration of the protective cover of the earthen ammunition bunkers,

the addition of shade shelters and a fish cleaning station, as well as installation of the preserved "walking beam"—a steam engine component—that Game Warden Captain Rex Mayes salvaged from the USS *Clifton*, sunk during the Battle of Sabine Pass.

Walter Umphrey Park improvements included 10 covered picnic pavilions, a volleyball court cover and a lighted basketball court cover. All of the improvements will enhance the public's experience at each of the waterfront parks impacted during the 2010 *Eagle Otome* spill.



Additional shade structures.



Restored ammunition bunker.

Agencies Partner to Identify and Remove Derelict Vessels

The shallow bay waters of Texas are littered with relics of the past, usually derelict vessels from the fishing industry, maritime commerce or recreational vessels. Many of these hazards aren't visible, even during a low tide. Now, with the technology of side scan sonar, these long forgotten vessels and structures can be seen.

Texas General Land Office OSPR Region 5 Field Office in Port Lavaca is fortunate to partner with Game Warden Captain Rex Mayes of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Warden Mike Mitchell of the agency's Law Enforcement Division to gather visual images of these forgotten vessels and structures. "Clearly, TPWD Law Enforcement is just as concerned about public health, safety and welfare; maritime safety and environmental quality as we are," said Greg Pollock, Deputy Commissioner of the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Division of the Land Office.

Utilizing the latest technology in side scan sonar, the past is resurrected in colorful images that define structures below the water's surface. The images allow the length, width and height of an object to be determined and sometimes even identify a separation of objects being scanned. These images are a great help in estimating the work involved in a removal and disposal project.

The assistance of Mitchell, with his technical knowledge and expertise in side scan sonar, has been invaluable in identifying subsurface vessels and structures. On numerous occasions, Mitchell offered and provided his assistance and expertise to the Region 5 office. His help in providing detailed imagery of Derelict Vessel and Structure (DVS) Project 654 has been particularly important. The imagery allowed the Land Office to have a steel salvager remove a large portion of the debris from the water. Another side scan produced imagery that identified more than 12 additional vessels or structures below the water surface. This imagery will lead to the complete removal of DVS 654, a significant and expensive removal project. "It's a terrific partnership between two agencies, in an effort to improve our coastal waters," Mitchell said.

The ongoing partnership between the Land Office and the TPWD Law Enforcement Division ensures that derelict and abandoned vessels and structures will be identified and removed. Since 2005, when the Derelict Vessel and Structure Removal Program began, Region 5 has documented 151 derelict vessels. With assistance from TPWD Law Enforcement, the Land Office has removed 102 vessels within its area of responsibility. For more information concerning the Derelict Vessel Removal Program, please contact Rusty Moon at 361-552-8081 or at rusty.moon@glo.texas.gov.

Area Contingency Plan Policy and Procedures Change

Coast Guard District 8 (CGD 8) has provided updated Area Contingency Plan (ACP) policy and procedures for the coastal region. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill response exposed ACP gaps and shortfalls. CGD 8 has reviewed and scored each ACP based on established and consistent criteria. These scores and feedback have been distributed to each unit. Some of the changes you will see include:

- New ACP Outline (more consistent format)
- More Area Committee requirements on updates, planning

process, documentation and review

- One Gulf Plan Cancellation (transitions to updated Regional Contingency Plan)
- CGD 8 Staff Responsibilities – ACP program direction, oversight, and support

Direct questions about this policy should be sent to: Captain Ed Cubanski at Edward.J.Cubanski@uscg.mil or Mr. Michael Sams at Michael.K.Sams@uscg.mil.

Gar Seafood Exceeds Expectations during GIUE Drill

Texas General Land Office Region 5 and the U.S. Coast Guard held a government initiated unannounced exercise (GIUE) at Gar Seafood in Palacios in early October. The exercise was part of a continuous effort to ensure facilities are fully prepared to protect Texas coastal waters.

Facilities that fall under the guidelines of the Oil Pollution Act and the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act are required to keep a current and updated Discharge Prevention and Response plan. These plans cover all basic first response actions required to set a clean up operation in motion. The plans include information on the person in charge, roles/responsibility of team members, discharge scenarios, notification procedures, clean up contractors, total petroleum storage capacity and actions necessary to mitigate and clean up a spill.

Together, the USCG and Land Office present a written oil spill scenario to a facility representative. The unannounced drill must be run as though an actual discharge has occurred. The facility is then evaluated on its ability to implement different aspects of its response plan. It's important that the facility presents a hard copy

of the plan to the Land Office and USCG and follows the necessary steps outlined. The facility must notify the person in charge and both state and federal agencies. Facilities may also be asked to deploy response equipment, such as boom, to show the ability to contain a spill in a timely fashion.

Gar Seafood exceeded expectations during the October GIUE. Within one hour, it successfully made all required notifications, deployed 200 feet of 18-inch boom and made sure its local discharge cleanup organization (DCO) arrived. Gar Seafood is an excellent example of how local industry is making huge efforts to remain at a constant level of preparedness.



Gar Seafood employees deploying boom during their GIUE.

ExxonMobil Encourages Employees to "Know Your H2O"

Region 2 Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) personnel were recently invited to participate in the ExxonMobil Safety Security Health & Environment Extravaganza held at the Downtown Houston Aquarium. ExxonMobil sponsors the annual event so its employees and their families can have a little fun while visiting with local state and federal agencies and industry organizations involved with the environment and water safety. This year's theme "Know Your H2O" provided an opportunity for OSPR personnel to educate families about preventing oil spills and the importance of protecting our coast.

Regional Director Rich Arnhart, Bob Brock, Colton Rohloff and Angela Jarvis were available to answer questions, pass out prizes to the prize wheel winners and demonstrate skimming operations

with the aid of a tabletop skimmer. The air boat provided by Region 1 was also a big draw with the crowd and provided an interesting backdrop for their photographs. This was another wonderful outreach opportunity to visit with people of all ages and share the importance of caring for our coast.



Responder Bob Brock sharing information about the OSPR Program with ExxonMobil employees.

MOA Signing

On September 6, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by representatives of the Texas General Land Office, U.S. Coast Guard and Galveston Bay Foundation regarding management of volunteers during oil spills in the Sector Houston-Galveston Area of Responsibility. The agreement defines the terms under which all parties will respond if volunteer assistance is needed during an oil spill. Under this new MOA, the non-profit Galveston Bay Foundation will serve as a "Volunteer Management Organization" to recruit, register and train volunteers for non-hazardous roles during an oil spill response.

Another document regarding the use of volunteers, "Use of Volunteers Guidelines for Oil Spills," was published in late September by the National Response Team (NRT). It provides guidance for Federal On Scene Coordinators (OSCs) and Area Committees (ACs) using or considering using volunteers during an oil spill incident. It was developed in response to incident lessons learned and contains information, examples and tools to help with everything from coordination and outreach, to organization and oversight, and includes tips on avoiding potential issues associated with a volunteer workforce. Though this document

is comprehensive in nature, it's a guidance document and was not designed to preclude any existing laws or agency-specific policies. It will be evaluated and updated periodically by the NRT to incorporate future lessons learned and maintain relevance in the field. For additional information on the new NRT, go to <http://www.nrt.org/production/NRT/NRTWeb.nsf/PagesByLevelCat/Level2UseofVolunteersMOU?Opendocument>.



Bob Stokes, President of the Galveston Bay Foundation; Captain James Whitehead, Sector Commander of the USCG Sector Houston-Galveston; and Richard Arnhart, Regional Director of the Oil Spill Prevention & Response Division Region 2 sign the MOA.